UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1919
21 June 1995

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Security Council and General Assembly, meeting concurrently, elect Luigi Ferrari Bravo of Italy to International Court of Justice.

* Secretary-General to leave New York tomorrow for Los Angeles; to travel on to San Francisco for events commemorating fiftieth anniversary of signing of United Nations Charter.

* UNHCR humanitarian convoy reaches Serb-controlled part of Sarajevo; UNPROFOR resupply convoy arrives in Srebrenica; NATO air patrol forces two fighters to land near Banja Luka.

* UNMIH assists with distribution of ballot papers and boxes for elections in Haiti on Sunday; says election campaign has been peaceful so far.

* Japan contributes $2 million to help UNRWA relocate headquarters from Vienna to Gaza.

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The Security Council and the General Assembly, meeting concurrently, today elected Luigi Ferrari Bravo of Italy to the International Court of Justice. Mr. Ferrari Bravo will fill the seat left vacant by the death of Judge Roberto Ago earlier this year. His term will expire on 5 February 1997.

Elections to the International Court require an absolute majority in both the Council and the Assembly. Mr. Ferrari Bravo was elected in the fourth round of secret balloting in the Council. In the Assembly, he obtained 102 votes in a second ballot.

Mr. Ferrari Bravo, one of four candidates for the post, was nominated by Greece, India, Italy, Poland, the Russian Federation and Venezuela. He has been a professor of European Community Law at the University of Rome since 1991, having begun his teaching career in 1956.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali will leave Headquarters tomorrow for Los Angeles, where he will address the World Affairs Council, according to a United Nations spokesman. He will then travel on to San Francisco to participate in events commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the United Nations Charter.

On Monday morning, the Secretary-General and United States President Bill Clinton will address the Charter commemorative ceremony, the spokesman said. Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali will also speak at a civic luncheon later that day.

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A United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) humanitarian convoy has reached a Serb-controlled area of Sarajevo via Kiseljak, a spokesman for the Organization reported today. However, other trucks continued to be blocked on that route. A United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) resupply convoy got through to Srebrenica yesterday. Another two convoys were en route to Gorazde and Zepa today, each carrying one week's supply of food.

Meanwhile, a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) patrol today detected two fighter aircraft flying over the town of Banja Luka, and ordered them to land. There were no indications that the aircraft had been engaged in combat activity, according to the spokesman.

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The United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) has been supporting the Haitian Government's Provisional Electoral Council in the distribution of 18 million ballot papers for upcoming elections. The Mission is also helping to deliver ballot boxes and electoral kits to some 10,000 polling places. Four helicopters, a plane, a boat and hundreds of vehicles are being used to deliver and distribute the election materials.

The Haitian people will vote on 25 June, and again on 23 July, to elect 18 senators and 83 representatives, and the members of 133 municipal councils and 565 boards of communal offices. The spokesman said the election campaign had been peaceful by any international standards.

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Japan has contributed $2 million to help the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) move its headquarters from Vienna to its area of operations. Some $1.4 million will be

allocated to the construction of offices in Gaza, while the balance will be used for the construction of additional premises at UNRWA's headquarters in Amman.

The United States recently contributed $1 million towards the cost of relocating UNRWA's headquarters. The Agency has so far received a total of $4 million for the move, which will cost an estimated $13.5 million.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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22 June 1995

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Secretary-General appeals to High-level Working Group for urgent assistance to deal with United Nations financial crisis; warns Organization will begin fiftieth anniversary without resources to carry out its mission.

* Security Council mission warns Western Sahara referendum might not be held in January 1996; parties must cooperate and MINURSO must be given adequate resources if timetable is to be maintained.

* UNHCR convoys deliver 400 metric tons of food to Sarajevo; Bosnian Government forces continue to blockade United Nations peace-keepers in Visoko.

* International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda to begin first plenary session in The Hague on Monday; judges to elect President and adopt rules of procedure and evidence.

* NGO role in Middle East must be redefined, Symposium on Palestine is told; United Nations to hold seminar on Palestinian administrative and financial needs.

* Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space discusses holding third international conference on space cooperation, and spin-off benefits of space exploration and research.

* UNEP and ECE to hold regional meeting on military activities and environment in Sweden from 27 to 30 June.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today appealed to the High-level Open-ended Working Group on the financial situation of the United Nations for urgent assistance. He asked it to address every possible way of relieving the current financial crisis, which he described as deplorable. "Should we fail to

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find a solution," he warned, "the United Nations will commence its fiftieth anniversary as a debt-encumbered Organization lacking the financial resources to carry out the mission that Member States intend it to perform."

As of 31 May, Member States owed the United Nations some $2.8 billion in unpaid assessments, the Secretary-General said. Only 48 Members had paid their regular budget contributions in full. Meanwhile, the Organization had debts of about $1.5 billion, and the crisis was deepening. He noted the growing practice of Member States to call for new or expanded United Nations activities without appropriating the necessary resources, further depleting very limited cash resources. If the Organization continued to pay countries for troops and equipment, it would only have $200 million in cash at year-end, which would not cover expenditures for three weeks.

"This means that I am being pressured to engage in irresponsible financial management," he continued. "In other words, I have been given the authority to spend money that I do not have, without a clear assurance that the necessary funds will be provided." He urged Member States to provide the cash to cover those activities without delay, and appealed to those with substantial arrears to make special efforts to pay a significant part of their outstanding assessments.

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There is a real risk that the referendum in Western Sahara might not be held in January 1996, according to the Security Council mission which recently visited the region. In a report dated 21 June, the mission expressed concern that the time necessary for carrying out the identification process and other aspects of the settlement plan had been underestimated. It cited the complexity of the tasks to be performed, the continuing delays caused by the parties and the constraints imposed by limited resources and local conditions.

For there to be any realistic hope of maintaining the timetable, the parties must cooperate and the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) must be given the necessary resources, the report said. It strongly recommended that the parties abandon their insistence on reciprocity in the number and operation of identification centres on each side. They must also refrain from blaming their lack of cooperation on each other.

The mission called on the parties not to inhibit access to identification centres and to take all necessary steps to facilitate a free and fair process. It acknowledged that some progress had been made in recent weeks, and underscored that, while fairness must be guaranteed, such progress must be sustained and improved to allow the referendum to take place early next year.

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Three United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) convoys reached Sarajevo yesterday, carrying a total of 400 metric tons of food, according to a spokesman for the Organization. However, the Bosnian Serbs turned two convoys back from the city today. United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) resupply convoys reached Zepa yesterday and Gorazde today, although a UNHCR convoy remained stuck outside Gorazde pending clearance from the Bosnian Serbs.

Meanwhile, the Bosnian Government Army continued to blockade Canadian, Malaysian and Pakistani peace-keepers in Visoko, the spokesman noted. However, some of the restrictions on the Canadian base were eased, albeit briefly, today. A convoy of soldiers was allowed to leave the base this morning, and negotiations were underway for the resupplying of three observation posts in the area.

There were around 1,000 firing incidents in Sarajevo yesterday, continuing a downward trend. However, one shell killed at least 4 civilians and wounded 15 others. There were also moderate levels of military activity in the Tuzla area. The United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (UNCRO) reported renewed shelling in Sector South this afternoon.

* * *

The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda will officially begin work next Monday with the opening of its first plenary session in The Hague. The Tribunal's 11 judges will meet for one week at the headquarters of the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. They will be sworn in on Tuesday, and will then elect the President of the Tribunal and adopt the rules of procedure and evidence.

The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda was established by the Security Council, in resolution 955 (1994), to prosecute persons who committed genocide and other serious violations of humanitarian law between 1 January and 31 December 1994. It is a subsidiary organ of the Council and will function independently of political considerations. The Tribunal's headquarters will be established in Arusha, Tanzania.

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With the Middle East peace process verging on collapse, the future role of non-governmental organizations must be redefined, according to the President of the Red Crescent Society in Gaza. Dr. Haider Abdel Shafi told the North American NGO Symposium on the Question of Palestine that the international community had sacrificed principle to political expediency. International NGOs should unite in calling on democratic governments to fulfil their commitments regarding

justice and legality in the Middle East. He made those comments at the end of a three-day session on "The United Nations on its Fiftieth Anniversary and the Question of Palestine."

"We have yet to witness significant transformation in the way in which the United States mainstream press is reporting on developments in relation to this issue," said Larry Ekin, Chairman of the North American Coordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine. The NGO community should be a source of reliable information and a voice of conscience.

Meanwhile, a seminar on Palestinian administrative, managerial and financial needs and challenges will be held in Paris from 28 to 30 June. Participants will review the role of international assistance in meeting those needs, and discuss selected themes. The seminar is being held under the auspices of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

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The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, continuing its session in Vienna, has discussed the holding of a third international conference on space cooperation. However, consensus proved elusive as the Committee concluded its debate on follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE 82).

The United Kingdom representative said the Committee should examine what could be achieved by alternative means before proceeding with plans for a third conference. South Africa's representative said there could be no substitute for an international conference, which would be particularly important to developing countries.

The Committee has also discussed the spin-off benefits of space exploration and research. The United States representative said the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) had developed a robotic assistant for assembling and servicing spacecraft. Such a device had subsequently been used in neurosurgery and gall-bladder removals.

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The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) will hold a regional meeting on military activities and the environment in Linkoping, Sweden, from 27 to 30 June. The meeting will be hosted by the Swedish Government.

Routine military operations can take as great an environmental toll in peacetime as in wartime, especially in the area of hazardous waste treatment and disposal, according to UNEP. However, the military in many countries can provide

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the expertise needed to address the problem. As a result, members of the ECE, including all European countries, Canada, Israel and the United States, have been invited to send both military and environmental representatives to the Linkoping meeting.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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23 June 1995

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Security Council, in thousandth resolution, extends UNFICYP mandate for six months; calls on parties in Cyprus to ensure no incidents occur along buffer zone and to cooperate fully with Force.

* Security Council expresses concern at blockading of UNPROFOR personnel by Bosnian Government forces, and placing of obstructions in Sarajevo area by Bosnian Serbs.

* Bosnian Government forces demand peace-keepers abandon three observation posts in Visoko area; Bosnian Serbs target UNPROFOR post in Gorazde and convoy near Sarajevo.

* Secretary-General, in address to World Affairs Council, stresses importance of relationship between United Nations and United States; cites common interest in promoting peace, development and democracy.

* United Nations to launch Home Page on Internet World Wide Web on Monday; service to provide user-friendly access to wealth of information on Organization.

* Two-day International Colloquium on Post-Conflict Reconstruction Strategies begins in Burg Schlaining, Austria.

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The Security Council today extended the mandate of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) for six months to 31 December. The Council called on the military authorities on both sides of the island to ensure that no incidents occurred along the buffer zone and to extend their full cooperation to the Force. It took that action by unanimously adopting its thousandth resolution.

Resolution 1,000 (1995) expressed concern about the modernization and upgrading of military forces in the Republic of Cyprus and the lack of progress towards a significant reduction in the number of foreign troops there. It urged all concerned to commit themselves to such a reduction and to

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a reduction of defence spending in the Republic, to help restore confidence between the parties and as a first step towards the withdrawal of non-Cypriot forces. The resolution called on both sides to enter into discussions with UNFICYP on the prohibition of ammunition or weapons, other than hand-held ones, along the cease-fire lines.

The Council regretted that the 1989 unmanning agreement had not been extended to cover all areas of the buffer zone where the two sides were in close proximity. It called on them to cooperate urgently with UNFICYP to that end. The Council requested the Secretary-General to keep the structure and strength of the Force under review with a view to its possible restructuring, bearing in mind the possible implications of an extension of the 1989 agreement.

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In a second meeting today, the Council expressed deep concern at the blockading by Bosnian Government forces of United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) personnel in the areas of Visoko, Gorazde, Gorni Vakuf and Kladanj. In a statement by President Detlev Graf zu Rantzau (Germany), it noted that those forces had placed mines outside the UNPROFOR camp in Visoko. The Council also expressed concern at the deterioration of the situation in around Sarajevo, and the obstruction by the Bosnian Serbs of freedom of movement and utility supplies to the city.

The Council condemned interference with humanitarian supplies and UNPROFOR's freedom of movement, stressing that all such actions were unacceptable. It demanded that all parties fully respect the safety and security of UNPROFOR personnel and ensure their complete freedom of movement to enable the Force to carry out its mandate. The Council called on the parties to enter into negotiations as provided for in resolution 998 (1995), and to agree without delay to a cease-fire and a complete cessation of hostilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

* * *

Bosnian Government forces have demanded that Canadian peace-keepers withdraw from three observation posts in the Visoko area, according to a United Nations spokesman. The Canadians refused to comply with that demand. Government forces also halted three UNPROFOR resupply convoys in Central Bosnia.

Bosnian Serb forces yesterday directly targeted an UNPROFOR observation post in Gorazde 14 times, according to a United Nations spokesman. They inflicted no casualties among the peace-keepers, but destroyed a Land Rover. In Sarajevo, the Bosnian Serbs targeted an UNPROFOR convoy travelling over

Mount Igman, damaging another Land Rover. There were around 1,800 firing incidents in the Bosnian capital yesterday. An improvised rocket bomb landed near the city's television building, killing one civilian and injuring four.

* * *

The relationship between the United States and the United Nations could be the most important relationship of the twenty-first century, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. He said today that the two must stand together in a great common cause -- the cause of peace, development and democracy. He made those comments in an address to the World Affairs Council in Los Angeles.

The United Nations had in many ways been the creation of the United States, but had grown into a world Organization with its own identity, he continued. Today, the United States was immensely important to the United Nations, but the Organization could also be invaluable to it. Collective security, cooperation for development, and democratization were as much in the country's interest now as they had been fifty years ago. Those objectives would become even more important as the next century approached.

During the cold war, the United States had spent scores of billions of dollars for stability, development and democracy, the Secretary-General noted. The United Nations could now be employed in that work at a cost of about $7 per individual American per year. The United States could achieve far more for its money by working with the Organization. "Today one thing is clear: there is only one agenda," he stressed. "That agenda is both domestic and international, both local and global."

The Secretary-General was scheduled to leave Los Angeles for San Francisco, where he would participate in events commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the United Nations Charter. He was also due to deliver several addresses over the weekend. A spokesman said he would focus on such matters as the three-phase administrative reform programme being implemented by the Organization and the resulting efficiency gains. Those gains would result in savings of more than $35 million in the 1996-1997 biennium.

* * *

The United Nations is going on-line with its own "Home Page" on the Internet World Wide Web. The service will be officially launched on Monday, to coincide with the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Charter. It represents a user-friendly gateway to a wealth of information on the Organization. Featured will be the latest United Nations news, including the Daily Highlights; a pictorial history of the Organization with over 100

downloadable photographs, including those of the Secretaries-General; and a special section on the fiftieth anniversary observance.

With just a click on an icon, a Home Page user can take an electronic tour of United Nations Headquarters in New York, or get basic information about the activities of the United Nations system. Photographs of Monday's ceremony commemorating the signing of the Charter in San Francisco will be available the same day. Anyone with an Internet connection and a Web browsing programme can access the Home Page. The address is: http://www.un.org.

The Home Page will also include links to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) gopher on the Internet, as well as to the Web sites of other bodies in the United Nations system. United Nations news and documents, in text-only format, currently on the UNDP Gopher will continue to be available on that system.

This service complements the United Nations News Audio Information System (UNNAIS), which is a computer-based audio system available by telephone. News, features and reports from United Nations offices worldwide are available round-the-clock by dialing (212) 963-3777 on a touch-tone telephone. The Department of Public Information (DPI) has worked closely with the Electronic Services Division of the Office of Conference and Support Services to develop both the Home Page and the Audio Information System.

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A two-day International Colloquium on Post-Conflict Reconstruction Strategies began today in Burg Schlaining, Austria, following an organizational session in Vienna yesterday. The Colloquium has been organized by the Department of Development Support and Management Services of the United Nations Office at Vienna. It is supported by the Austrian Government as part of its observance of the Organization's fiftieth anniversary.

The Colloquium is discussing the capacity of the United Nations system to help countries recover and reconstruct following armed conflict. It aims to establish a framework for inter-agency collaboration, and to make recommendations for stand-by mechanisms. Participants will also discuss modalities of cooperation with bilateral donors.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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26 June 1995

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* United Nations commemorates fiftieth anniversary of signing of Charter in San Francisco; Secretary-General says Organization expresses age-old dream of universal cooperation.

* Secretary-General has meetings with Presidents of United States and Poland in San Francisco.

* Secretary-General condemns attempted assassination of President of Egypt; says campaign against terrorism must be accelerated.

* Special Representative praises UNMIH's performance in providing technical assistance and security support for Haitian elections; no major violent incidents reported.

* Fighting intensifies in Sarajevo amid small-scale offensive actions by Bosnian Government; Croatia alleges troops from Federal Republic of Yugoslavia are present in Sector South.

* Administrative and Budgetary Committee approves $50 million to finance UNIKOM, UNOMIG and UNOMIL through mid-1996.

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Today was the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the United Nations Charter. At a ceremony in San Francisco commemorating that event, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said the United Nations expressed the age-old dream of universal cooperation. He stressed that the Charter was more than a document of history; it was the foundation stone of international relations.

Through the United Nations, he continued, the world had embraced the ideals of peace and security -- to preserve the integrity of States and to protect the lives of their peoples. The Charter had proved flexible enough to meet the need for peace-

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keeping. For both troop-contributors and the countries they served, United Nations peace operations reinforced the ideal of international solidarity in the face of conflict. Through the United Nations, the world had also pledged itself to the ideal of development, framing a vision and forging a consensus on the rights that belonged to all humanity.

"We are the custodians of the dream of global cooperation," the Secretary-General went on to say. "We will not let it perish. As long as people seek national identities; as long as people seek protection from aggression; and as long as people yearn for a better world for their children, the United Nations will endure, and it will succeed."

In his address to the commemorative ceremony, United States President Bill Clinton said the United Nations had compiled a remarkable record of progress over the last fifty years. The Organization had advanced the interests of the United States and of the world. On every continent it had played a vital role in making people more free and more secure.

Should the United States turn its back on the United Nations, it would mean more economic, political and military burdens for the American people and it would mean ignoring the lessons of history, President Clinton continued. He underlined the importance of reform of the United Nations, but stressed that the United States should pay its fair share of the Organization's costs.

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Following today's ceremony commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Charter, the Secretary-General had a 30-minute meeting with President Clinton. He then attended a civic luncheon in San Francisco, and delivered the keynote address. Earlier in the day, he attended the city's dedication of the United Nations Plaza.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali had numerous appointments in San Francisco over the weekend. Yesterday, he had a meeting with Polish President Lech Walesa, and accepted an invitation to visit Poland later this year. He later met with four Nobel Peace Laureates -- President Walesa, Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa, Dr. Oscar Arias of Costa Rica and Mrs. Betty Williams of Ireland. The Secretary-General also addressed the national convention of the United Nations Association of the United States, and attended an inter-faith service at Grace Cathedral in honour of the Organization's fiftieth anniversary.

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In a message on the occasion of International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, the Secretary-General said illicit drugs threatened the peace, stability and tranquility of humanity. He stressed that international action was vital to counter that threat. Prevention was the first priority, based on reducing both supply and demand.

* * *

The Secretary-General today expressed great dismay at the attempted assassination of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. He condemned the incident in the strongest terms, and said the campaign against terrorism must be accelerated.

International peace and social justice could not be served by murder, terrorism and fundamentalism, he stressed. Those goals could only be attained by constructive dialogue and negotiation, within a democratic framework.

* * *

Special Representative Lakhdar Brahimi has expressed great satisfaction at the performance of the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) in yesterday's Haitian elections. He particularly praised the work of the civilian police monitors, who had worked very long hours. The United Nations provided technical assistance and security support for the elections, which took place without any major incidents of violence. Haitian radio described UNMIH's performance as "a flawless job."

The Haitian people were voting to elect 18 senators, 83 assembly members, 133 mayors, 266 deputy mayors, and 1,695 members of municipal government. The results of the elections will be released next week, according to the head of Provisional Electoral Council.

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Fighting has intensified in and around Sarajevo, particularly in the area of the airport, and there have been reports of small-scale offensive activity by the Bosnian Government, a United Nations spokesman said today. Bosnian Serb forces fired on a French resupply convoy crossing Mount Igman, but ended their attack after peace-keepers fired warning rounds.

Meanwhile, 19 shells impacted in Gorazde yesterday, killing

four civilians and injuring one. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said the food situation there was fast becoming critical. A humanitarian convoy which had been halted by the Bosnian Serbs for eight days yesterday gave up its attempt to enter the town and returned to base. No convoys have reached Gorazde since 20 May.

The humanitarian situation in the southern part of the Bihac pocket has also been deteriorating, according to the UNHCR. Humanitarian convoys attempting to reach the area have been obstructed by rebel Muslim forces led by Fikret Abdic, which control the northern part of the pocket.

In another development, the Croatian Government has informed Special Representative Yasushi Akashi that troops and supplies from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) are present in Sector South. The United Nations Confidence Operation in Croatia (UNCRO) is expected to respond formally to that allegation tomorrow.

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The Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) has approved draft resolutions by which the General Assembly would appropriate or authorize almost $50 million to maintain three peace-keeping operations. The Committee also approved draft decisions on another four operations.

One draft resolution would provide $22 million for the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) for the period 1 July 1995 to 30 June 1996. That amount represents more than a third of the Mission's cost for the period. The remainder would be covered by a voluntary contribution of $38 million from the Government of Kuwait. Another draft would provide almost $20 million for the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) from 16 May 1995 through June 1996. A third draft resolution would provide $8.5 million for the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) for the period 1 July to 31 December.

The Fifth Committee also approved draft decisions which would have the Assembly set off certain unencumbered balances, accrued interest and miscellaneous income against Member States' apportionments in respect of three operations. Those operations are: the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), and the United Nations Military Liaison Team in Cambodia. A draft decision on the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) would have the Assembly endorse and approve relevant ACABQ recommendations.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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27 June 1995

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Secretary-General to leave Headquarters tomorrow for official visit to Switzerland; to pay subsequent visits to Greece, Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda, Angola, Ethiopia and Turkey.

* Secretary-General describes meeting with United States President in San Francisco as cordial and constructive; United Nations reform and finances among matters discussed.

* UNPROFOR reports fewer firing incidents in Sarajevo, but several attacks against peace-keepers by Bosnian Serbs; Rapid Reaction Force expected to be operational by 15 July.

* OAS says Haitians were able to exercise franchise freely in Sunday's elections; 300 international observers had reasonable overview of electoral process.

* Laity Kama of Senegal elected unanimously as President of International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda; Yakov Ostrovsky chosen as Vice-President.

* UNEP announces adoption of African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement at meeting in The Hague.

* New York Museum of Modern Art presents programme of United Nations films as fiftieth anniversary commemoration.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali was back at Headquarters today, following his visit to Los Angeles and San Francisco to participate in events commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the United Nations Charter. Among his appointments today was a meeting with the Foreign Minister of Mexico, Jose Angel Guerria Trevion, according to a United Nations spokesman.

The Secretary-General will leave New York tomorrow for Geneva to begin an

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official visit to Switzerland. He will meet with the Federal President and attend celebrations marking the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. He will also attend a meeting of the Economic and Social Council on 4 July; open the Conference on Demining and address the Conference on Disarmament on 6 July; meet with heads of agencies assisting in the Occupied Territories; and preside over talks on East Timor.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali will leave Switzerland for a three-day official visit to Greece, where he will meet with the President and senior Greek officials. He will then embark on a five-day tour of Africa, taking in Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda, Angola and Ethiopia, followed by a three-day official visit to Turkey.

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The Secretary-General yesterday had a "cordial and constructive" meeting with United States President Bill Clinton in San Francisco, the spokesman said. They discussed a range of United Nations successes and some problem areas. The President reaffirmed his support for the Organization and indicated that current reform measures would be helpful in congressional debate on relations between the United Nations and the United States. The Secretary-General highlighted the Organization's financial crisis and received "an understanding hearing" from the President.

During the meeting, the Secretary-General and the President expressed satisfaction regarding the course of Sunday's elections in Haiti. They analyzed the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the deployment of the Rapid Reaction Force. Mr. Boutros-Ghali briefed Mr. Clinton on his upcoming visit to Africa, and they discussed the deteriorating situations in Liberia and Sierre Leone. Also discussed were the issue of East Timor and the situations in Afghanistan, Tajikistan and Guatemala.

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The number of firing incidents in and around Sarajevo yesterday fell to 900, according to the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR). However, the Bosnian Government said four civilians had been killed and five wounded in shelling and sniping incidents. UNPROFOR was unable to verify the Government's claim because of restrictions on its movement.

Meanwhile, the Bosnian Serbs launched several attacks against UNPROFOR. Five mortar rounds were fired at a French observation post on Zuc hill, injuring one soldier, while four rounds were fired at French peace-keepers on the Mount Igman road. UNPROFOR Commander Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith vigorously protested those incidents.

UNPROFOR reported that the British and Dutch components of the Rapid Reaction Force were almost complete, while the French component would be in position by 1 July. The Force was expected to be operational by 15 July.

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Haitian voters were able to exercise their franchise freely in Sunday's national elections, according to the Organization of American States (OAS). It said in a preliminary statement that some 300 observers from 31 countries had been deployed throughout Haiti, and that they had had a reasonable overview of the electoral process.

The OAS noted that there had been some inadequacies and difficulties during the voting, but stressed the successful aspects of the elections. International assessments had been generally positive, although the opposition parties in Haiti had raised objections regarding the process.

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The 11 Judges of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda today unanimously elected Laity Kama of Senegal as President of the Tribunal, and Yakov Ostrovsky of the Russian Federation as Vice-President. The Tribunal began work yesterday, with the opening of its first plenary session in The Hague.

The Rwanda Tribunal was established by the Security Council to prosecute persons who committed genocide and other serious violations of humanitarian law between 1 January and 31 December 1994. It is currently meeting at the headquarters of the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, but will be based in Arusha, Tanzania.

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An ambitious intergovernmental agreement aimed at conserving the waterbirds of Africa and Eurasia has been adopted at a meeting in The Hague, according to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement covers species which are dependent on wetlands for at least part of their annual cycle, including pelicans, storks, flamingoes, ducks and geese. It covers 150 species over an area of 60 million square kilometres -- almost 40 per cent of the earth's land mass.

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The New York Museum of Modern Art is currently presenting a programme of films produced by the United Nations as part of the worldwide commemoration of the Organization's fiftieth anniversary. The programme has been organized by the Museum's Department of Film and Video, and features films selected from the United Nations Film Archives. It will run through 4 July.

The programme includes documentaries and newsreel footage, video news magazines, animated and concert films, and public service announcements produced by United Nations agencies. Highlights include the Academy Award-winning short "First Steps" (1947), and rare footage of appearances by world leaders at the United Nations over the last fifty years.

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UNITED NATIONS

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28 June 1995

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Improvised rocket-bombs strike Sarajevo after Bosnian Government forces launch fresh offensive; UNPF Commander says he has no evidence to confirm troops from Federal Republic of Yugoslavia are present in Croatia.

* Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is meeting commitment to close border with Serb-controlled areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Co-Chairmen of International Conference report.

* Brigadier-General Frank van Kappen succeeds General Maurice Baril as Secretary-General's Military Adviser.

* World Economic and Social Survey 1995 finds global economy is growing at sustainable 3 per cent per year, with no threat of high inflation.

* Economic and Social Council begins 1995 substantive session in Geneva by adopting agenda and programme of work.

* Ad Hoc Committee on Indian Ocean begins five-day session at Headquarters; Australia says French decision to resume nuclear testing in South Pacific is deeply offensive.

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Bosnian Government forces this morning went on the offensive with company-size infantry attacks in the western suburbs of Sarajevo, according to a United Nations spokesman. A short while later, improvised rocket-bombs hit the city's television building and an apartment block 500 metres away. One person was killed and 33 were injured at the television building, while there were unconfirmed reports that four people had been killed at the apartment block.

The spokesman described the rocket-bombs as "home-made devices, highly

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explosive in nature and extremely inaccurate as weapons." He noted that no humanitarian convoys had reached Sarajevo since last week as neither of the Bosnian parties would give security guarantees for deliveries to areas controlled by the other. "As long as this stand-off persists, there'll be no deliveries to either side," he added.

Meanwhile, the Commander of the United Nations Peace Forces (UNPF), General Bernard Janvier, yesterday informed the Croatian Government that he had received no information confirming the presence of troops from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) in Sector South. He said in a letter to the Government that he shared its concern about the possibility of external military involvement in the conflict in Croatia. He added that he would conduct a further investigation of the matter.

General Janvier went on to say that the withdrawal of Croatian forces from the Mount Dinara area would be a significant step towards reducing tensions in the Sector. He proposed that the United Nations establish three observation posts in the area, and asked the Croatian Government to use its influence with the Bosnian Croat forces to facilitate that initiative.

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The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) is continuing to meet its commitment to close the border between it and Serb-controlled areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina, according to the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia. In a report issued today, they also certified that there had been no transshipments across the border between the two countries during the past 30 days. The report was transmitted by the Secretary-General to the Security Council in a letter dated 25 June.

The Co-Chairmen said the financial situation of the International Conference's Mission to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) had improved. As a result, they had authorized an increase in Mission personnel to 200. As of 22 June, 185 international personnel were covering 19 border crossings 24 hours a day.

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Brigadier-General Frank van Kappen of the Netherlands has been named as the Secretary-General's new Military Adviser, according to a United Nations spokesman. He succeeds General Maurice Baril of Canada, who served in the position for the last three years.

Brigadier-General van Kappen has commanded the Netherlands Forces in the Caribbean since July 1992. He has also served as Director of the Royal Netherlands Navy's Personnel Planning Department, and worked with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in the United Kingdom. He received his commission in 1964.

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The global economy is growing at a sustainable rate of 3 per cent a year, according to the United Nations World Economic and Social Survey 1995. The Survey said that the economy was stronger than it had been for years, and that growth was not so rapid as to threaten high inflation. Nevertheless, some countries were continuing to stagnate, and their prospects depended on the policies they implemented themselves.

The Survey warned that the macroeconomic measures needed to stimulate the global economy should growth slacken would be constrained by the need to reassure the financial markets. Persistently high unemployment was another problem of great importance, and should be addressed through human capital development, regulatory reform and investment in infrastructure.

The economies in transition would enjoy overall economic growth in 1996, but might have already achieved positive growth, the Survey noted. However, Africa's economic performance continued to be a disappointment, with population growth outstripping gross domestic product (GDP) growth in the sub-Saharan region. Severe poverty also existed in parts of Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean.

* * *

The Economic and Social Council has begun its 1995 substantive session in Geneva by adopting its agenda and programme of work. The Council postponed until tomorrow a decision on granting accreditation to 759 non-governmental organizations to the Fourth World Conference on Women. The Conference will be held in Beijing from 4 to 15 September.

In his opening statement, President Ahmad Kamal (Pakistan) said that the concept of international development cooperation was being re-examined and that the Council was coming under particularly close scrutiny. The best way to silence the critics was to demonstrate by the quality of decision-making that development efforts were viable and necessary, and that the Council was the best forum to manage the task.

* * *

The Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean yesterday began a five-day session at Headquarters. It is working for general disarmament in the region, and for the convening of an international conference for that purpose, with the participation of the States of the region and the Powers that have an interest in it.

The representative of Australia told the Ad Hoc Committee that France's decision to resume nuclear testing in the South Pacific was deeply offensive. It made a mockery of the recent agreement on the extension of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and gave comfort to those not committed to the Treaty, he said.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1925
29 June 1995

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Secretary-General, in Geneva, congratulates United States and Russian Federation on successful docking of Space Shuttle with Mir Space Station.

* UNPROFOR condemns continued shelling of civilians as act of barbarity after another rocket-bomb hits Sarajevo; French peace-keeper dies after vehicle strikes mine.

* Croatia accuses Federal Republic of Yugoslavia of violating Security Council resolution 988 by transferring troops across Bosnian border and into Serb-occupied Croatian territory.

* UNHCR appeals for $44 million to assist voluntary repatriation of 300,000 Angolan refugees over next 30 months.

* Special Representative for Haiti says despite shortcomings, Sunday's elections were major step forward in democratization of country.

* Administrative and Budgetary Committee welcomes progress made in reform of United Nations procurement, and Secretary-General's intention to report on matter to General Assembly.

* United Nations to host one-day international symposium on mental retardation, in conjunction with launching of 1995 Special Olympics.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today congratulated the United States and the Russian Federation on the occasion of the successful docking of the Space Shuttle Atlantis with the Mir Space Station. The space race, which had begun with attempts to attain military and technological dominance, had been transformed by that peaceful cooperative venture, he said.

The signing of the United Nations Charter fifty years ago this week ushered in a new age of international cooperation, he continued. Today, a new era of cooperation in outer space was dawning. The docking was a major step towards the establishment of an international space station. The Organization was committed to the promotion of cooperation in outer space and ensuring that all humanity reaped the benefits offered by space exploration.

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Today was the first full day of the Secretary-General's official visit to Switzerland. He had a "very positive and constructive" meeting in Geneva with Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev. They discussed the situation in the former Yugoslavia, cooperation between the United Nations and the Commonwealth of Independent States in Georgia, developments in Tajikistan, and the problem between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

* * *

The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) today condemned the continued shelling of civilians in Bosnia and Herzegovina as an act of barbarity, after another improvised rocket-bomb hit Sarajevo. The missile landed near the television building, but caused no damage or injuries. Using a radar trace, UNPROFOR estimated that it had been fired from Serb-controlled territory six of seven kilometres west of the city.

Meanwhile, a French peace-keeper was killed when his armoured personnel carrier struck a mine while turning at a Bosnian Serb checkpoint in the Butmir area. Last night, a Russian convoy was directly targeted by Bosnian Government forces in the hills south of Sarajevo. Several vehicles were damaged by rifle and machine-gun fire, but there were no injuries.

* * *

Croatia has accused the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) of violating Security Council resolution 988 (1995). In letters to the Council and the Secretary-General yesterday, the Croatian Government alleged that the border between the Federal Republic and Bosnia and Herzegovina had been breached by the "Army of Yugoslavia". It said that Army had transferred troops and heavy weapons over the border, across territory controlled by the Bosnian Serbs, and then into the occupied territories of Croatia.

Croatia asked the Security Council to urgently consider and condemn recent acts of interference by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) in its internal affairs. "The condoning of this serious border violation and silence about Belgrade's intervention in Croatia would be a very serious setback for the situation in the occupied territories of Croatia and for the peace process in the region in general", it said.

* * *

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) today appealed for $44 million for the voluntary repatriation of 300,000 Angolan refugees over the next 30 months. Some 200,00 of the refugees are in Zaire, 96,000 are in Zambia, 12,000 are in the Congo, and 1,000 are in Namibia. Another 15,000 are scattered in 32 other countries.

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Some 5,000 refugees have returned spontaneously to Angola since the signing of a peace accord last November. The accord ended 20 years of civil war that left an estimated 600,000 people dead and another three million displaced internally.

* * *

Special Representative Lakhdar Brahimi today visited Haiti's largest ballot-counting centre in Port-au-Prince, according to a United Nations spokesman. He was accompanied by the Force Commander of the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) and the Civilian Police Commissioner.

Mr. Brahimi said that despite shortcomings and some incidents of violence, Sunday's elections meant Haiti would have a popularly elected parliament, mayors and other local officials. He described the electoral process as a major step forward in the democratization of the country.

* * *

The Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) has welcomed the progress made in implementing procurement reform in the United Nations Secretariat. In a decision approved yesterday, it also welcomed the Secretary-General's intention to submit a report on the matter to the General Assembly at its next session.

The Russian representative expressed support for the Secretariat's efforts to alleviate the shortage of procurement staff. The representative of India supported the training of procurement staff and their rotation between the field and Headquarters.

* * *

The United Nations will host a one-day international symposium on mental retardation tomorrow, a spokesman for the Organization announced today. The symposium is being held in conjunction with the launching of the 1995 Special Olympics in New Haven, Connecticut, on Saturday. Lowell Weicker, former governor of Connecticut and chairman of the Special Olympics Committee, and Senator Edward Kennedy will be the guest speakers.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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30 June 1995

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Security Council extends UNOMIL mandate until 15 September; urges Liberian parties to install Council of State, observe cease-fire and disengage all forces.

* Security Council extends MINURSO mandate until 30 September; stresses need for parties to resume participation in implementation of Settlement Plan for Western Sahara.

* Secretary-General meets with Swiss President and Foreign Minister in Bern; says he regards Switzerland as integral part of United Nations system and expresses thanks for its support.

* UNHCR warns humanitarian airlift to Sarajevo might not be resumed because of deteriorating security situation and refusal of Bosnian Serbs to give safety assurances.

* Economic and Social Council considers coordinated follow-up to major United Nations conferences; UNDP Administrator initiates consultation process on possible coordination mechanisms.

* United Nations to host policy dialogue on African development in Geneva on 3 July; proposals to feed into Economic and Social Council high-level segment.

* * *

The Security Council today extended the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) until 15 September. It stressed that continued international support for the peace process there, including the continued presence of the Mission, depended on immediate actions by the Liberian parties to peacefully resolve their differences and achieve national reconciliation. The Council took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 1,001 (1995).

The Council urged the Liberian parties to make serious and substantial process towards implementing the Akosombo and Accra Agreements. It specifically urged them to install the Council of State; reestablish a comprehensive and effective cease-fire; disengage all forces; and create an agreed timetable and

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For information media—not an official record

schedule for the implementation of all other aspects of the Agreements, particularly the disarmament process. UNOMIL's mandate would not be renewed on 15 September if those requirements were not met.

If significant progress were made, the Council said it would consider restoring UNOMIL to its full strength, with appropriate adjustments to its mandate and the relationship with the ECOWAS Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) to enable the two operations to carry out their functions more effectively. It demanded once more that all factions in Liberia strictly respect the status of ECOMOG and UNOMIL personnel, as well as organizations delivering humanitarian assistance throughout the country. It further demanded that they facilitate such deliveries and strictly abide by international humanitarian law.

* * *

In a second meeting today, the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) until 30 September. It reiterated its commitment to holding, without further delay, a free, fair and impartial referendum for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara in accordance with the Settlement Plan. The Council expressed concern that, given the complexity of the tasks to be performed and the continuing interruptions caused by the two parties, implementation of the Plan had been further delayed.

In unanimously adopting resolution 1,002 (1995), the Council called on the parties to work with the Secretary-General and MINURSO in a spirit of genuine cooperation to implement the Settlement Plan. It stressed the need for the parties to refrain from any actions that hindered that process, and called on them to reconsider recent relevant decisions with a view to establishing confidence. In that regard, it asked the Secretary-General to make every effort to persuade them to resume their participation in the Plan's implementation.

The Council asked the Secretary-General to report by 10 September on the progress achieved in Western Sahara. It expected to be able, on the basis of that report, to confirm 15 November as the start of the transitional period, to allow the referendum to take place early in 1996. The Council said it would consider extending the mandate after 30 September based on the Secretary-General's report and in the light of progress achieved towards the holding of the referendum and the implementation of the Settlement Plan.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali arrived in Bern today on an official visit to Switzerland, according to a United Nations spokesman. He met with the Federal President and Foreign Minister and other senior Swiss officials. The Secretary-General said he regarded Switzerland as an integral part of the United Nations system, although it was not a Member State, and expressed his

gratitude for its support for the Organization. He also briefed the President on efforts to promote peace, democracy and development, which were the pillars of a secure and harmonious world.

The Secretary-General and the President discussed a wide range of issues relating to peace and security, including the role of regional organizations in relation to United Nations peace efforts. Mr. Boutros-Ghali then attended a luncheon given in his honour by the Federal Council, and later met with the Forum of Swiss Non-Governmental Organizations.

* * *

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has warned that its humanitarian airlift to Sarajevo might not be resumed, having been suspended for nearly three months. It said the deteriorating security situation in the city, the refusal of the Bosnian Serbs to give safety assurances, and the refusal of the warring sides to discuss the reopening of the airport were preventing the resumption of the airlift.

Meanwhile, fighting in the western suburbs of Sarajevo died down today, according to a United Nations spokesman. However, the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) sector headquarters was hit by artillery rounds last night, although there were no injuries. This morning, five rounds landed near the residence of the Force Commander, Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith.

In another development, the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, Thorvald Stoltenberg and Carl Bildt, will travel to the region tomorrow. They are expected to have several days of high-level meetings in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and Croatia.

The Economic and Social Council has been discussing ways in which the United Nations system should coordinate follow-up to the six major conferences held over the last five years in the economic, social and related fields. The Council is currently holding its 1995 substantive session in Geneva. The six conferences are: the World Summit for Children; the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) VIII; the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED); the World Conference on Human Rights; the International Conference on Population and Development; and the World Summit for Social Development.

The Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, Nitin Desai, told the Council that the six conferences were linked by their elaborate processes and common issues. They constituted a continuum, although each had its own constituency and specific concern. The Council's challenge was to combine what was common to all the conferences with what was specific to them.

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The Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), James Gustave Speth, said he had begun a process of consultation among senior United Nations official on possible coordination mechanisms on conference follow-up. That initiative had been taken at the request of the Secretary-General. The aim was to mobilize the United Nations system by establishing thematic inter-agency task forces to serve as the follow-up mechanisms at the regional and country levels.

* * *

Senior development experts from African and donor governments and non-governmental organizations will meet in Geneva on 3 July to discuss African development policy. The meeting will be attended by the Secretary-General, and the proposals resulting from it will feed into the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council session from 4 to 6 July. That segment will focus on the "Development of Africa, including the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s".

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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3 July 1995

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Secretary-General, in Geneva, says international community must resist fatalism, inequality and assaults on human dignity.

* UNHCR reports two deaths from starvation in Bihac pocket; says humanitarian airlift to Sarajevo could resume within 72 hours if conditions permitted.

* Mortar round wounds three peace-keepers at UNPROFOR headquarters as indiscriminate shelling of Sarajevo continues.

* High Commissioner Ogata to receive Philadephia Liberty Medal for work on behalf of refugees worldwide.

* Administrative and Budgetary Committee recommends General Assembly maintain current level of peace-keeping support account for July.

* Ad Hoc Committee on Indian Ocean concludes 1995 session; says major Powers should participate in discussion on peace and security in region.

* * *

The international community must say "No!" to fatalism in the face of crisis; "No!" to continuing inequality; and "No!" to assaults on human dignity, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. He made that comment in Geneva today, in an address on the role of religions in the promotion of peace and tolerance. He said humanity's economic interdependence and brotherhood must be announced through solidarity in development.

The Secretary-General said the current fiftieth anniversary celebrations should be an occasion to pay tribute to the spiritual foundations of the United Nations Charter. Citing the opening exhortation of the Charter -- "We the peoples of the United Nations" -- he said humanity should be constitutionally united as it was spiritually one.

Among his other appointments in Geneva today, the Secretary-General attended a plenary meeting of the International Law Commission. He was also

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For information media—not an official record

scheduled to attend a meeting of senior development experts from African and donor governments to discuss African development policy.

* * *

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has reported Bosnia and Herzegovina's first deaths by starvation since the war there began. An elderly man and a three-year old boy died of hunger in the Bihac pocket over the weekend. Two UNHCR convoys reached Bihac last week, but there have been no regular aid deliveries since Bosnian Serb forces began blocking access in May 1994.

In another development, the UNHCR said it was prepared to resume its humanitarian airlift to Sarajevo within 72 hours, but saw little prospect of that happening. The airlift has been suspended since 8 April because of the deteriorating security situation in the city, the refusal of the Bosnian Serbs to give safety assurances, and the refusal of the warring sides to discuss the reopening of the airport.

The UNHCR went on to say that it had only achieved 42 per cent of its humanitarian delivery targets in May. Deliveries to Sarajevo had declined in June and were expected to do so again in July.

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Sarajevo was subjected to further indiscriminate shelling over the weekend, according to the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR). Yesterday, a mortar round hit a tree at UNPROFOR headquarters in the city. Three peace-keepers were slightly injured, while a guard at the adjacent United States Embassy compound was more seriously injured.

Meanwhile, a French UNPROFOR convoy driving over Mount Igman was targeted by Bosnian Serb forces, who fired 15 rounds from a cannon. The Force responded with mortar fire, after first firing a warning smoke round. It was the first time UNPROFOR had used high explosive mortar rounds against the Bosnian Serbs.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata will tomorrow receive the Philadephia Liberty Medal for her work on behalf of refugees worldwide. The Medal recognizes people who have demonstrated leadership and vision in the pursuit of liberty of conscience, or freedom from oppression, ignorance or deprivation. Recent recipients have included Presidents Nelson Mandela and F.W. de Klerk of South Africa and President Vaclav Havel of the Czech Republic.

"To me, this award has immense symbolic weight", Ms. Ogata said. "The

population of the United States is made up of people who left other countries to search for liberty and opportunity. Refugees have been driven from their homes by persecution and warfare, and they, too, long for those freedoms."

* * *

The Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) has recommended that the General Assembly maintain for July the current level of resources approved under the support account for United Nations peace-keeping operations. The Assembly had authorized 346 posts and 61 positions under general temporary assistance to be funded from the support account in the amount of $14.1 million, for the period 1 January to 30 June.

* * *

The Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean has said that greater efforts and more time are needed to develop a focused discussion on practical measures to ensure peace, security and stability in the region. The Committee made that comment on Friday, when it concluded its 1995 session by adopting its report to the General Assembly.

The Committee said it remained convinced that all permanent members of the Security Council and major maritime users of the Indian Ocean should participate in its work. It encouraged States concerned to resume their participation and urged its Chairman to pursue his dialogue with their Governments and to report back at its next session. France, the United Kingdom and the United States withdrew from the Committee in 1989.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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DH/1928
5 July 1995

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Security Council extends suspension of certain economic sanctions against Federal Republic of Yugoslavia until 18 September; Russian Federation abstains from voting on resolution.

* Secretary-General, in Geneva, attends ceremony commemorating fiftieth anniversary of United Nations; receives Presidents of Switzerland and France.

* In address to Economic and Social Council, Secretary-General says development of Africa is essential and urgent task; calls on world community to increase assistance to continent.

* Secretary-General to convene meeting of senior United Nations officials later this week to discuss situation in former Yugoslavia.

* Byung Suk Min of Republic of Korea appointed as first Chief of Mission of United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia.

* UNHCR says humanitarian situation in Sarajevo is bleak; urges Bosnian Government to reverse decision to tax humanitarian organizations in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

* Aircraft flying from Serb-controlled territory fires rockets at Government power station near Bihac; two mortar rounds impact near UNPROFOR headquarters in Sarajevo.

* International Tribunal for Rwanda is actively investigating 400 individuals suspected of war crimes, Secretary-General reports.

* UNHCR resumes voluntary repatriation programme for Rwandan refugees in Zaire's Goma region.

* UNDP to host meeting on situation in Rwanda and progress in implementing Programme for National Reconciliation in Kigali on 6 and 7 July.

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For information media—not an official record

* Ad Hoc Group of States Parties to Convention on Prohibition of Bacteriological and Toxin Weapons to meet in Geneva from 10 to 21 July.

* * *

The Security Council today extended its suspension of certain economic sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) until 18 September. Restrictions on air travel, maritime traffic, sporting events and cultural exchanges were originally suspended by resolution 943 (1995) for 100 days, provided that the border between the Federal Republic and Bosnia and Herzegovina were closed. The suspension was extended for 100 days by resolution 970 (1995), and for a further 75 days by resolution 988 (1995).

The Council took today's action by adopting resolution 1,003 (1995) by 14 votes in favour to none against, with the Russian Federation abstaining. It noted the measures taken by the Federal Republic to maintain the closure of its border with Bosnia and Herzegovina with respect to all goods, except foodstuffs, medical supplies and clothing for essential humanitarian needs. The Council also reaffirmed the importance of further efforts to enhance the effectiveness of the border closure.

The Council renewed its call for early mutual recognition between the States of the former Yugoslavia within their internationally recognized borders. It urged the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to take the important first step of recognizing Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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Continuing his visit to Geneva, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today participated in a ceremony commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. He received President Kaspar Viliger of Switzerland and President Jacques Chirac of France before the proceedings began. Among the dignitaries attending the ceremony were the Vice-President of South Africa, F.W. de Klerk; the Prime Minister of Latvia, Maris Gailis; the Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), Yasser Arafat; and the President of the General Assembly, Amara Essy.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali also had meetings today with Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri of Algeria; Defence, Sciences and Personnel Minister Gary Punch of Australia; and Deputy Foreign Minister Li of China.

Yesterday, the Secretary-General addressed the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council and opened the high-level segment on development in Africa. He also met with the organizations elected to the Board of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) which have consultative status with the Council.

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In his address to the Economic and Social Council, the Secretary-General said the development of Africa was one of the most essential and urgent tasks facing the United Nations. He called on the international community not merely to maintain but to raise its assistance to the continent, noting that it had been the world's only region not to benefit from increasing private capital flows to developing countries.

The United Nations must help Africa strengthen its regional cooperative structures, he continued. Economic, customs and administrative obstacles, as well as infrastructural and communications shortcomings, could all be overcome by better inter-African cooperation. The Organization should also help African countries to diversify their economies. Assistance should be provided to create new export capabilities and to diversify production, with a shift towards non-traditional sectors.

The Secretary-General urged the international community to tackle Africa's debt problem, saying many African countries were crushed by an unbearable external debt burden. However, international efforts would not succeed unless Africans took their fate into their own hands. "Africans themselves -- all Africans -- must become the driving force behind development efforts", he concluded.

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The Secretary-General will convene a meeting of senior United Nations officials in Geneva later this week to discuss the situation in the former Yugoslavia, a spokesman for the Organization announced today. The meeting will probably take place on Friday or Saturday. It will be attended by Special Representative Yasushi Akashi; the Co-Chairman of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, Thorvald Stoltenberg; the Commander of the United Nations Peace Forces (UNPF), Lieutenant-General Bernard Janvier; and possibly by Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding.

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Byung Suk Min of the Republic of Korea has been appointed as the first Chief of Mission of the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (UNCRO). Mr. Min, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the Czech Republic since 1992, has been a career Foreign Ministry official since 1976.

Overall command and control of the three United Nations operations in the former Yugoslavia is exercised by Special Representative Yasushi Akashi and by UNPF Commander Lieutenant-General Bernard Janvier.

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) today said that only 8 per cent of the 6,000 metric tons of humanitarian aid required by Sarajevo had been delivered in June. The agency added that the situation in the city was as bad as it had ever been. This morning, a convoy carrying 60 tons of flour over the Mount Igman route came under mortar attack, leaving one peace-keeper wounded and one truck damaged. The UNHCR condemned such attacks on humanitarian convoys, describing them as outrageous.

In another development, the UNHCR announced that the Bosnian Government had introduced a heavy tax on all humanitarian organizations, including non-governmental organizations, individuals and projects, in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The agency said that decision should be reversed, warning that some organizations might otherwise halt their humanitarian operations.

* * *

United Nations observers near Bihac today reported that an aircraft flying from Serb-controlled territory had fired four rockets at a power station controlled by Bosnian Government forces. The rockets did not land within the safe area. However, nine shells impacted in the town today, causing two civilian casualties.

The situation in Sarajevo was tense, although the levels of fighting had declined from yesterday. Two mortar rounds landed near the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) headquarters in the city, while four observation posts were either directly or indirectly targeted. United Nations traffic on the Mount Igman road continued to come under fire from Bosnian Serb positions. Meanwhile, there was an increase in the use of heavy weapons in Srebrenica. Yesterday, one civilian was killed and two were injured by shelling in Gorazde.

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The Deputy Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda has been actively investigating serious violations of international humanitarian law and acts of genocide from Kigali and The Hague, according to the Secretary-General. In a report to the Security Council dated 30 June, he said the investigation was focusing on some 400 suspects. It was being conducted in Rwanda and other African countries, and in Europe and North America, where the principal planners of the genocide which occurred last year were believed to be located.

The Secretary-General expressed the hope that the necessary agreements on the establishment of the Tribunal's seat in Arusha, Tanzania, would soon be finalized. However, he noted that the Prosecutor's Office in Kigali had yet to become operational. Such a presence had been mandated by the Security Council and would have a vital socio-educational impact on the people and Government of

Rwanda. The problem of impunity for crimes committed in Rwanda must not only be addressed but must also seen to be addressed by the people most directly concerned.

The approval by the General Assembly of a budget for the Tribunal would greatly facilitate its operational development, he went on to say. That action would permit the accelerated recruitment of personnel and the conclusion of the necessary contractual commitments. It would also permit the planning of a work programme for investigation, the preparation of indictments and the holding of trials.

* * *

The UNHCR has resumed its voluntary repatriation programme for Rwandan refugees in camps in the Goma region of Zaire. Twenty refugees today travelled from the Kibumba camp to the Rwandan border town of Gisenyi, and were then transported onward to their home communes. UNHCR's special envoy for the Great Lakes region, Carrol Faubert, said the number of returnees was expected to increase, adding that voluntary repatriation was the only realistic solution to the refugee problem.

From December 1994 to March 1995, the UNHCR repatriated some 13,000 Rwandan refugees from the Goma camps. However, the return movement ground to a halt following the forcible closure of camps for internally displaced people in south-western Rwanda in April and reported incursions into Rwanda from Zaire by former Rwandan soldiers. There are currently some 720,000 Rwandan refugees in the Goma camps, and another 600,000 and 190,000 in Tanzania and Burundi respectively.

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Representatives of the Rwandan Government, donor countries, and United Nations agencies will meet in Kigli on 6 and 7 July to discuss the situation in Rwanda and progress in implementing the Programme for National Reconciliation and Social-Economic Rehabilitation. The meeting is being organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The Programme for National Reconciliation was adopted in Geneva last January, with donor countries making pledges totaling $600 million. To date, 50 per cent of those pledges have been committed, but only 18 per cent have been disbursed. The UNDP is helping the Rwandan Government keep track of the commitments and expediting disbursements through its Trust Fund for Rwanda.

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The Ad Hoc Group of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and their Destruction will meet in Geneva from 10 to 21 July. The Group, which comprises 132 States parties, was established last year to consider measures, including possible verification measures, to be included in a legally binding instrument.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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6 July 1995

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Secretary-General calls for global ban on production and use of land-mines, and destruction of stockpiles, at high-level International Meeting on Mine Clearance in Geneva.

* Secretary-General discusses reconstruction of Gaza and provision of aid with Yasser Arafat; hears of progress in Middle East peace process.

* UNPROFOR condemns Serb air attack on power station in Bihac pocket as flagrant violation of no-fly zone; heavy fighting reported in Srebrenica.

* Haiti's Provisional Electoral Council decides to hold extra first-round elections in districts which experienced irregularities on 25 June.

* WHO Director-General says Ebola outbreak in Zaire could be officially declared over within two months.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today called for a global ban on the production and use of land-mines and the destruction of stockpiles. He made that call at the International Meeting on Mine Clearance in Geneva. The Secretary-General convened it to galvanize world public opinion on the land-mine crisis and to enhance momentum for international humanitarian action.

According to the Secretary-General's 1994 report "Assistance in Mine Clearance", there are more than 110 million land-mines spread in 64 countries around the world. Between two and five million more are planted each year. Land-mines kill some 10,000 non-combatants every year, and maim, blind or otherwise injure thousands more. They also adversely affect development by curtailing agricultural activities or rendering fertile land uninhabitable.

The three-day International Meeting on Mine Clearance brings together high-level government officials and representatives of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with the problem of land-mines. It provides

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a forum for affected countries to elaborate their needs and for donors to announce contributions to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Clearance.

* * *

Among his other appointments in Geneva today, the Secretary-General met with Yasser Arafat, President of the Palestinian Authority and Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). They discussed the reconstruction of Gaza and the provision and coordination of aid to the area. Mr. Arafat briefed the Secretary-General on his recent meetings with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Israel and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. He stated that there had been progress in those meetings.

The Secretary-General also attended the high-level segment of the 1995 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council. He participated in a political dialogue on the world economy and international economic cooperation with Michel Camdessus, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF); Renato Ruggiero, Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO); James Wolfensohn, President of the World Bank; and Carlos Fortin, Officer-in-Charge of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

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The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) has strongly deplored yesterday's Serb air attack on a Bosnian Government power station in the Bihac pocket. It described the incident as a flagrant violation of the no-fly zone established by the Security Council. The attack resulted in one civilian casualty, but the Force was unable to conduct a full investigation because of restrictions on movement imposed by the Bosnian Army.

The situation in Croatia was tense today, with further Croatian Army troop movements reported in Sectors North and South. There was also firing on the border of the Bihac pocket. Meanwhile, there was heavy fighting in Srebrenica, and shells landed in the Dutch Battalion camp. However, there was a decrease in the number of firing incidents in Sarajevo. Bosnian Serb forces yesterday targeted a British Battalion convoy travelling on the Mount Igman road.

* * *

Haiti's Provisional Electoral Council has decided to hold additional first-round elections on 22 or 24 July in districts where elections did not take place or in which there were irregularities on 25 June, according to a United Nations

spokesman. He noted that the Council had not yet made an official announcement in that regard.

The spokesman reported that the run-off elections had been postponed from 23 July to mid-August. It was expected that partial results from last month's elections would be announced over the weekend.

* * *

The Ebola haemorrhagic fever outbreak in Zaire could be officially declared at an end within the next two months, according to the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), Hiroshi Nakajima. Dr. Nakajima made that comment at WHO headquarters in Geneva after returning from a fact-finding mission to Zaire.

A total of 296 suspected or confirmed Ebola cases have been reported, of whom 233 have died. Dr. Nakajima said the current outbreak differed from one in 1976 in that it consisted of a series of waves of cases, whereas there had been only one major wave in earlier outbreak.

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UNITED NATIONS

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FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Disarmament is inseparable from peace and is key goal of United Nations, Secretary-General tells Conference on Disarmament.

* Secretary-General to convene sixth round of talks on East Timor in Geneva tomorrow; to meet later with senior officials on situation in former Yugoslavia.

* Federal Republic of Yugoslavia expresses concern at German decision to send military personnel to former Yugoslavia; says augmenting UNPROFOR military potential will not help peace process.

* United Nations convoys come under fire from Bosnian Serb and Bosnian Government positions in Sarajevo; UNHCR aid convoys reach Gorazde and Zepa.

* DHA reports one hundred million people affected by serious floods in southern China; Government puts death toll at 1,200 and economic cost at $4 billion.

* Human Rights Committee to hold fifty-fourth session in Geneva from 10 to 28 July; to consider reports from five States on protection of civil and political rights.

* * *

Disarmament is inseparable from peace and is one of the cardinal purposes of the United Nations, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In an address to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva yesterday, he said disarmament was an essential factor in his efforts to promote a safer world. It fitted in quite naturally with preventive diplomacy, peace-keeping operations, and post-conflict peace-building.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali once again called for a halt to all nuclear testing without exception. The conclusion of a treaty prohibiting nuclear testing by 1996 was "a must", he said. Failure to reach agreement on that issue would directly undermine recent international efforts with regard to nuclear disarmament.

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More countries must be encouraged to support the cause of nuclear disarmament, as upheld in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), he continued. At the same time, it was important to deal with new regional ambitions that might give fresh impetus to trafficking in weapons of all sorts. It was necessary to take the broadest possible approach, as both conventional and nuclear weapons posed a threat to collective security.

* * *

The Secretary-General had numerous appointments in Geneva today. Among them were meetings with the President of the International Court of Justice; the Minister of Trade and Economic Affairs of Egypt; the Secretary-General of the World Labor Federation; and the Secretary-General of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Tomorrow, the sixth round of talks on the question of East Timor will begin under the auspices of the Secretary-General. He will meet separately and then jointly with the Foreign Ministers of Indonesia and Portugal. Later in the day, he will convene a meeting of senior officials dealing with the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. On Sunday, he will leave Geneva for a three-day official visit to Greece.

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The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) has expressed concern at Germany's decision to send military personnel to the former Yugoslavia. In a letter to the Secretary-General dated 6 July, it said the decision contravened "the rule according to which troops of neighbouring countries and the former occupying countries are not to be engaged in the peace operation of UNPROFOR." Germany had ruthlessly occupied the territory of the former Yugoslavia in two world wars, and had played a negative role in the initial phase of the current crisis when it openly aided and abetted the secessionist Republics of Slovenia and Croatia.

The letter went on to say that augmentation of military potential under UNPROFOR auspices was not conducive to a peaceful and just solution of the crisis. On the contrary, "it enhances the possibilities for new provocations by the Muslim side, aimed at provoking an international military intervention against the Serbs". While the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia supported UNPROFOR's role as a force to keep, not impose, peace, it considered equal treatment of all parties to the conflict a precondition for the peace process.

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There was a slight increase in the number of firing incidents in Sarajevo today, according to a United Nations spokesman. United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) vehicles using the Mount Igman road were targeted from both Bosnian Serb and Bosnian Government positions. However, there was relative calm in Srebrenica, after heavy fighting yesterday in which at least two people were killed and six were injured. Dutch peace-keepers in the area were resuming their normal duties today. One observation post was badly damaged yesterday when their camp came under fire.

Meanwhile, a United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) convoy reached Gorazde yesterday -- the first into the town since 20 May. Another aid convoy reached Zepa. However, UNPROFOR troop-rotation convoys were unable to reach either Gorazde or Srebrenica. The spokesman noted that the Bosnian Government was considering imposing a tax on humanitarian organizations operating in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and had not actually done so as reported earlier in the week.

* * *

One hundred million people have been affected by serious floods in southern China, according to the Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA). The Chinese Government reported that 1,200 people had been killed and another 26,000 injured. It estimated the economic cost of the floods at $4 billion, noting that Hunan and Jiangxi provinces had suffered heavy crop damage.

The DHA said it had received no request for international assistance in relation to the flooding in China. Meanwhile, the Resident Representative in Beijing was following up on the situation with the Chinese Government.

* * *

The Human Rights Committee will hold its fifty-fourth session in Geneva from 10 to 28 July. It will consider periodic reports from Ukraine, Latvia, Sri Lanka, the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom on measures taken by them to implement the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The Committee, composed of 18 independent experts, monitors the implementation of the Covenant in the 130 States which have ratified it. Representatives of the five States will introduce their reports on the promotion and protection of civil and political rights, and will respond to oral and written questions from Committee members.

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UNITED NATIONS

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MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Secretary-General says United Nations operations in former Yugoslavia at turning point; says he opposes withdrawal, however parties must recreate conditions to enable Organization to carry out its mandate.

* Situation in Srebrenica deteriorates as both Bosnian Serbs and Bosnian Government forces attack United Nations peace-keepers.

* Security Council President condemns attacks on UNPROFOR personnel and detention by Bosnian Serbs of Dutch peace-keepers.

* Secretary-General convenes sixth round of talks on question of East Timor; meets with Foreign Ministers of Indonesia and Portugal.

* Secretary-General begins 3-day official visit to Greece.

* Secretary-General recommends mandate of International Civilian Mission in Haiti be extended until 7 July 1996.

* Economic and Social Council calls for urgent measures to ameliorate deteriorating socio-economic situation in Africa.

* Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) recommends General Assembly appropriate $270 million for UNAMIR and ONUSAL.

* Annual commemoration of World Population Day to be observed tomorrow by more than 150 countries.

The United Nations operations in the former Yugoslavia are at a turning point, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. He said the steady deterioration in Bosnia and Herzegovina in recent weeks was making it difficult for the United Nations to carry out its humanitarian and peace-keeping tasks, and its previous achievements in those fields were being overlooked by public opinion. The Secretary-General was speaking in Geneva at a weekend meeting of senior United Nations officials responsible for the peace process and humanitarian and peace-keeping operations in the former Yugoslavia.

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The Secretary-General said he was determined to do everything possible to keep the United Nations operation in being so it could carry out the mandate entrusted to it by the international community. Noting the growing calls for the withdrawal of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), the Secretary-General said he was opposed to the withdrawal of the United Nations humanitarian and peace-keeping operations from Bosnia and Herzegovina and/or Croatia. However, if present trends were to be reversed and withdrawal avoided, the parties must be persuaded to recreate conditions in which the Organization could carry out its mandate.

Senior officials attending the meeting included Special Representative Yasushi Akashi; the Under-Secretary-General for Peace-Keeping Operations, Kofi Annan; Special Advisors, Chinmaya Gharekhan and Ismat Kittani; Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Marrack Goulding; the Force Commander of the United Nations Peace Forces in the former Yugoslavia (UNPF), Lieutenant-General Bernard Janvier; UNPROFOR Force Commander in Bosnia, Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith; the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Sadako Ogata; and Thorvald Stoltenberg, the Co-Chairman of the Steering Committee of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia.

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The situation in the eastern Bosnian enclave of Srebrenica was deteriorating and Bosnian Serbs were shelling the town again today, according to a United Nations spokesman. Serb forces, who have been attacking the enclave since last Thursday, are believed to be within a kilometre of Srebrenica town.

Over the weekend, both Bosnian Serb and Bosnian Government forces attacked United Nations peace-keepers. A Dutch soldier was killed when the Bosnian army fired on peace-keepers, as they moved out of blocking positions, ahead of a Bosnian Serb advance south of Srebrenica. A hand grenade was thrown by Bosnian Government forces at a UN armoured personnel carrier. The spokesman described the incident as highly dangerous and totally unacceptable.

In other action on the weekend, three United Nations observation posts were over-run and 30 peace-keepers were taken by Bosnian Serbs. However, the UNPROFOR soldiers were still in radio contact with their base in Srebrenica and were allowed to keep their weapons. The Spokesman said the situation was unacceptable and the UN demanded that the peace-keepers be released immediately and allowed to return to their bases with their weapons.

In a letter to the Bosnian Serbs, Special Representative Yasushi Akashi and UNPF Force Commander Lieutenant-General Bernard Janvier condemned the attacks against United Nations peace-keepers and warned the Bosnian Serbs that if they attacked UNPROFOR's blocking position near Srebrenica, NATO close air support

would be used. In another letter, Lieutenant-General Janvier protested the Bosnian Government's hostile action against United Nations peace-keepers. The Secretary-General said in Athens today that the United Nations would not hesitate to use air-power to protect the peace-keepers and the enclaves.

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The Security Council has expressed concern at the deteriorating situation in and around Srebrenica and, in particular, the suffering of the civilian population. In a statement outside the Council Chamber to United Nations correspondents, Council President Gerardo Martinez Blanco (Honduras), demanded that all parties fully respect the status of the safe area of Srebrenica.

Ambassador Martinez Blanco said the Security Council condemned the attacks on UNPROFOR personnel and the detention by the Bosnian Serbs of the Dutch contingent. The Council also demanded that the Bosnian Serb forces release immediately and unconditionally the detained personnel and that all parties respect UNPROFOR's safety and freedom of movement.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali convened the sixth round of talks over the weekend in Geneva on the question of East Timor, meeting first with Foreign Minister Ali Alatas of Indonesia and then with Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Durao Barroso of Portugal.

The objective of the meeting was to find a just, comprehensive and internationally acceptable settlement to the question of East Timor, according to a United Nations spokesman. The Ministers discussed the eventual framework for the achievement of such a solution and other related issues, such as the preservation and promotion of the cultural identity of the Timorese people and bilateral relations between Indonesia and Portugal.

Meanwhile, Indonesia's Foreign Minister Ali Alatas has said the whole question of East Timor is a political one that should be resolved in the political bodies of the United Nations. He told correspondents that any solution would require movement by both Portugal and Indonesia on the three substantive issues, however it was impossible to know how long an agreement would take. On the question of possible self-determination by the East Timorese, he said the people of East Timor had already expressed their right to self-determination with the overwhelming majority having chosen independence, through integration, and there was no longer any need for a referendum.

The Portuguese Foreign Minister, Jose Manuel Durao Barroso said there had been some progress in the talks however it was slight. He welcomed news that the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Jose Ayala Lasso, would visit East Timor in November and said it was a step forward in opening East Timor to

visits by international organizations. The 7th round of talks between the Foreign Ministers under the auspices of the Secretary-General will be held on 16 January next year in London.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali began his 3-day official visit to Greece today. According to a United Nations spokesman, the main purpose of the visit is to reinforce the relationship between the United Nations and Greece. The Secretary-General met with the Greek Foreign Minister, Karolos Papoulias, who expressed his country's support for the United Nations. Noting the growing demands on the United Nations, Mr. Papoulias recalled Greek efforts to help find a solution to the Organization's financial crisis.

The Secretary-General and the Foreign Minister discussed the deteriorating situation in the former Yugoslavia, particularly in Bosnia and Herzegovina. They also discussed the UN operation in Cyprus and efforts to find solutions to the differences between Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the relationship between Greece and Turkey. The Secretary-General will receive the 1995 Onassis international prize for international understanding and social achievement.

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The Secretary-General has recommended that the mandate of the International Civilian Mission in Haiti (MICIVIH) be extended until 7 July 1996, which is the date when President Aristide's mandate expires. In a report to the General Assembly dated 29 June, the Secretary-General said the mission should continue its present tasks, including those related to the current electoral process.

He said the Mission had made a major contribution to improving respect for human rights in Haiti, both during the period of military rule, when it had to operate in difficult and dangerous conditions, and since the restoration of constitutional order last October.

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The Economic and Social Council has called for urgent measures to ameliorate the deteriorating socio-economic situation of the Africa continent. It has also urged the international community to devote more efforts to helping African countries in their development. The call came as the Council concluded a two-day debate in Geneva over the weekend on the development of Africa, including the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s.

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During an extended session, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) said governments had a crucial role to play in promoting economic and social development as they maintained law and order, which could provide a sound and secure environment for private enterprise to spring up and thrive. Human resources development and capacity-building, democratic participation in the development process, and the promotion of human rights were mentioned as other main areas of concern in the implementation of the New Agenda.

Several speakers called for a meaningful commitment by the international community to help Africa overcome its acute debt problem which, together with other shortcomings, had hampered sustainable development mainly because of lack of capital. Many countries pledged assistance for Africa in the implementation of the development programme and reiterated their commitments to help African countries achieve sustainable economic and social growth.

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The Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) has recommended that the General Assembly appropriate $270 million for the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) and for the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL).

According to the terms of two draft resolutions, approved by the Fifth Committee on Friday, the General Assembly would appropriate the money for various periods, starting from mid-1994 to the end of this year.

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The 1995 annual commemoration of World Population Day will be observed by more than 150 countries tomorrow, according to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The commemoration is set against the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo last September.

The UNFPA has invited governments, United Nations agencies and organizations, universities and population institutions as well as private citizens to take part part in the observances and to help raise awareness of the goals of the Programme of Action adopted by the Conference as well as the importance of population issues to the future of mankind.

The Fund's Executive Director, Nafis Sadik, said the Conference's consensus in favour of a new approach that moves beyond population and numbers, and targets and places human rights and individual well-being at the centre of sustainable development efforts.

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